

Shattered Dreams

Students experience impact of driving under the influence

The normally quiet town was filled with the sounds of emergency vehicle sirens. Bounds Street was blocked off with cones and littered with beer cans. Students looked on in stunned-silence as they took in the scene before them: the bloody bodies of their classmates strewn across the asphalt and jammed into cars.



"I had to keep telling myself that it wasn't real over and over again," Markell Irvin, 11th, said. "It was scary, just thinking if they were really gone."

On May 20, a group of 12 students acted out the two-car fatality in front of their parents, teachers, and peers, known as Shattered Dreams. Complete with actual wrecked cars, first responders, and a Starflight helicopter students learned about the serious effects drinking and driving has on peoples' lives.

The 38 students involved in the event were asked to write their own obituary which was read over the loud speaker on Wednesday.

"It was kind of awkward at first - acting like you died and writing your own obituary," Markell said. "I felt kind of empty, like 'Why did my life have to be taken?'"

EMS workers created fake injuries on the students involved to make the scene more realistic and to have a greater impact on the audience.

"It was a little weird putting on the fake bone, but it was interesting too," Shawn Pittman, 12th, said.

After the incident, students were ushered into the gym for a presentation led by Teri Gruca, a reporter from KVUE news.

"You may think you're in control but you're not..." Gruca told the students. "Alcohol is in control."

